

## HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 2, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
H-310, The Capitol  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services  
2448 Rayburn HOB  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services  
1016 Longworth HOB  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In recent weeks, the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas has experienced an unprecedented influx of undocumented immigrant apprehensions and detentions, many of which are unaccompanied minors from countries other than Mexico. These crossings have created a resource crisis in the Rio Grande Valley that demands immediate attention from the federal government and the Appropriations Committee.

Since the beginning of this year, over 145,000 undocumented immigrants have been apprehended in the Rio Grande Valley sector, a more than 65% increase over the same period of Fiscal Year 2013. If current rates continue, the Rio Grande Valley is expected to have over 240,000 apprehensions for Fiscal Year 2014. On average, over 70% of apprehensions are Other Than Mexicans (OTM) and a large percentage of them are unaccompanied children. Currently,

the Rio Grande Valley is apprehending approximately 300 unaccompanied children on a daily basis.

I represent much of this area in the 28<sup>th</sup> District of Texas, which stretches from San Antonio in the north to Laredo and the much of the upper Rio Grande Valley. I have had extensive personal conversations with the men and women of Border Patrol in the past few weeks about this ongoing issue and they have laid out the issues straining the resources and personnel of Border Patrol.

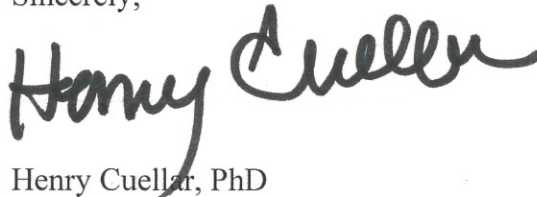
Every undocumented immigrant that is apprehended while attempting to cross the border must be processed by Border Patrol. With this unprecedented surge in crossings, the Rio Grande Valley is currently at more than 190% of its temporary detention capacity. Those that are detained are then transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Many others are released with a notice to appear before an immigration judge at a future date.

This resource crisis requires a multi-agency response involving the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice. Because of the massive influx of immigrants being apprehended at the border, it is necessary to create a central location in which all elements of the adjudication process can be completed.

We need to do a better job taking care of the children who are crossing the southern border unaccompanied and we must act immediately to avert a potential humanitarian crisis along the border. I am committed to working with Chairwoman Kay Granger, Ranking Member David Price, and the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee to work with our partners in Mexico and other Central American countries.

Thank you for your consideration. If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact me, my legislative director Megan Swearingen, or my legislative assistant Wendell White at 225-1640.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry Cuellar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Henry" and last name "Cuellar" clearly distinguishable.

Henry Cuellar, PhD  
U.S. Congressman  
Texas District 28

CC: The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528